

Weekly Video Update July 18, 2022

Karen Connolly, Select Board Member

Jim Boudreau is out of the office so Ms. Connolly provided the weekly Covid update.

Covid Update

The State positivity is 7.87% , same as last week. The County is 6.89%, up from last week (5.48%) and Scituate is 7.98%, up from last week (6.99%). We are still reporting positivity numbers. The new variant is extremely contagious so please be careful in crowds, especially indoors. The number of ICU beds occupied is 46 and there are 12 patients intubated across the state.

Ms. Connolly introduced Kevin Cafferty, who will provide an update on water issues. She encouraged everyone to view the water treatment plant update from July 13th that is available on Scituate Community Television's YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzZWVXXUmjE>

Kevin Cafferty, DPW Director

Water Update

The reservoir is at -22 inches and Tack Factory Pond is -2.25 inches. Rainfall is .28 inches over the past seven days. The state has us at a level 2 significant drought status. Demand is 7,682,000 gallons. Treatment plant has put out over 5 million gallons. Our total water usage is 12.7 million gallons which is an average of 1.821 gallons per day - an increase of almost 200,000 gallons from last week and we are in a water ban.

Our wells are slowly declining in productivity because the ground level is dropping. This happens every year, but more so during drought conditions.

We have some brown water coming out of the treatment plant that we can't treat. The more water we use, more brown water comes out of the system because we're losing well capacity. As the reservoir decreases in temperature, everything stirs up on the bottom and that also contributes to brown water. We have been in a water ban since June 29th which means **hand held hoses only before 9 AM and after 5 PM**. Please call the Water Department if you see people using irrigation systems. We would like to speak with people to explain the situation. We can fine those users, but we prefer to speak with them first.

Celco is working on Old Driftway this week, Greenfield Ln., Pinebrook and Westgate.

The Carnival is coming to town this week and we've been helping prepare for that.

Paving will hopefully be done within the next two weeks. We are waiting for the paver and we're in the queue.

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Ms. Connolly re-iterated that if people see homeowners using irrigation, it's best to call the Water Department rather than confront the homeowner. Mr. Cafferty said that's correct, let the Water Department handle it.

The Carnival starts Tuesday, July 19th and runs through Saturday, July 23rd. It opens at 7 PM and there will be fireworks on Saturday evening. This is the Knights of Columbus' main fundraiser for the town so please check it out.

The Library summer concert series is on Wednesdays. Heritage Days will be coming up on August 5th, 6th, and 7th. This year, purple luminaria bags will be available to honor Purple Heart Day. Scituate is a Purple Heart Community so we will be honoring our Purple Heart recipients.